

J. A. Macdonald
(F 2630)

STATEMENT WITH REFERENCE TO ADDITIONAL
BUILDING REQUIRED FOR MCGILL NORMAL
SCHOOL.

The Committee of the McGill Normal School, while cordially thanking the Government for the important repairs recently effected, begs leave to present the reasons which in its judgment require that the additional accommodation also asked for should be given to the School, which is doing a very large and important educational work, and is the institution on which the Protestant population has to depend for its principal supply of trained teachers.

As evidence of the need of the desired additions to the building, the Committee would cite the following facts :

1. In the Normal School there is great want of a room expressly fitted up for the instruction of the drawing classes: because neither the mode of lighting nor the arrangement of the seats of an ordinary class-room suits the requirements of a class drawing from models, and this part of our work is of great and growing value.

2. In every school of the character of the Normal School there should be at least one large lecture-room or theatre, with raised seats, from which pupils can look down upon a demonstrating table. No such room can be provided in the present building.

3. The Library, originally too small, has had to be reduced in size in the course of the late repairs, to accommodate the new heating apparatus, and there is no reading-room nor space for it in the present building.

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4. A residence for the caretaker is absolutely necessary. We are at present paying rent for a house at some distance from the building, and there is no one on the premises at night.

5. The Boys' and Girls' Model Schools, which are of much importance in the training of teachers, now require all the space occupied by the Normal School classes, for which new and more suitable rooms should be provided.

6. The present work-shop connected with the Model Schools can only be regarded as a temporary and insufficient provision to meet a demand which daily grows more imperative.

7. The Building occupied by the Primary School is insufficient. It requires a room to accommodate 50 additional pupils of its grade, in order that it may be a proper feeder to the higher departments. For the purpose of training teachers, two small classrooms, of the capacity of 25 pupils each, should be added to this school. The teachers of the Primary School should have a retiring room.

8. A Kindergarten for 50 pupils should be added to this department, to afford to teachers-in-training opportunity of studying the best methods of instructing the smallest children. This would require the addition of two large rooms, with a hall, cloak room and other conveniences.

It has been ascertained that an addition to the present building, extending across the play-ground, could be very conveniently made, and would afford the necessary space for extension of the Normal School, for the Primary School, the Kindergarten, the Workshop and the Caretaker's residence, as well as for additional closets, cloak-rooms, &c., and for the Library and Apparatus.

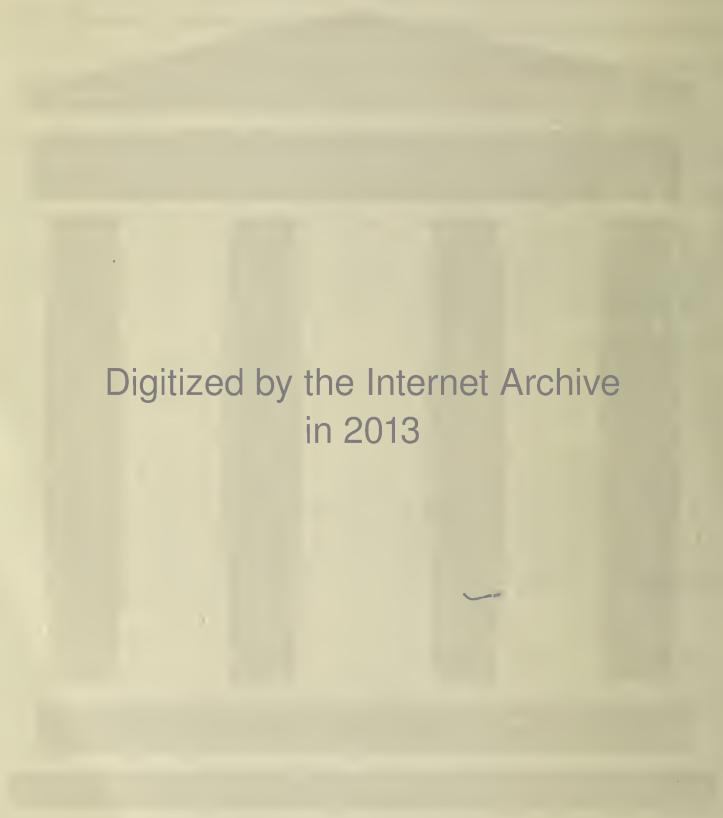
Plans for such a building have been prepared by the Architect appointed by the Government, and have been carefully considered and approved by the Committee and Principal of the School, and they are of such a character as to give sufficient accommodation for many years.

If erected, plainly but substantially, of stone or brick, it is believed that the cost would be moderate, as the ground is level and the foundation and drainage excellent; and the whole amount would not need to be provided till next year, as the erection of the buildings could not now be begun till next spring, except perhaps by putting in foundations.

It is not expected that the addition desired will demand any further annual expenditure, beyond that provided for by the fees of pupils in the Kindergarten and enlarged Primary School; and the work of the Normal School will undoubtedly be vastly increased in efficiency with reference to the training of the best class of teachers for the Elementary and Model Schools.

Nov., 1890.

9 Feb 1940



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